

**Town of Boscawen**  
Agricultural Commission  
Meeting Minutes- DRAFT  
Boscawen Municipal Complex  
March 14, 2019 7:00 pm

1 Members Present: John Keegan – Chair, Bill Bevans-Vice Chair, Julie Fournier, Rusty Colby,  
2 John Porter, Tina Larochelle, Josh Marshall

3 Members Absent: Roger Sanborn-Ex-Officio

4 Others Present: Kellee Jo Easler, Danielle Bosco, Carrie Cree, Colby Sawyer College student

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Chairman Keegan called the meeting to order at 7:02pm with a quorum.

7 Roll call made by Chair Keegan.

8 Chair Keegan said student Carrie from Colby Sawyer is present to see how an Agricultural  
9 Commission works and gather helpful information to bring back to their food policy group.

10 Chair Keegan made a motion to approve the minutes as amended- line 11-strike the, line 12-  
11 agriculture, line 15- does not and remove the word the, line 30- period before Commercial, line  
12 36- change municipality to accessors, line 43- remove would, line 49- change comma to period,  
13 line 63- Jeff not John, line 75- remove they, line 76- remove under, line 82- membership renewal  
14 should be in bold, line 86- motion to adjourn should be in bold. All members were in favor.

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16 **Treasurers Report:** Chair Keegan said the budget was approved as submitted at Town Meeting  
17 for \$2,000. All members accepted the Treasures Report of January 1- March 14<sup>th</sup>.

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19 **Land Use Happenings:**

- 20 • Mrs. Easler said the ZBA approved the Special Exception for the private cemetery. Mrs.  
21 Easler said the next step is for the applicant to purchase the property.
- 22 • Mrs. Easler said that two pieces on High street have an application for a lot line  
23 adjustment.
- 24 • Mrs. Easler said there is a sheep that has been roaming around on Queen Street that has  
25 been getting out and onto other residents' property. Mrs. Easler said she sent the owner a  
26 letter on the steps of receiving a special exception to have the sheep at the property. Mrs.  
27 Easler said they may need recommendations for keeping it penned in along with a site  
28 visit by the Commission.
- 29 • Mr. Porter questioned if there was any plan for the Tannery. Mrs. Easler said it has not  
30 been talked about recently. In the past, the town representatives have spoken with a few  
31 contractors but no plans are currently in place.

32 **Welcome Signs:**

- 33 • Mr. Porter said he is picking up the original paint, with the mixing codes, from Chuck  
34 who made the signs. Mr. Porter said he plans to go to Capital Paint for primer  
35 recommendations. Mr. Marshall said he still needs to look into the costs for the individual

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36 drop signs we will be using seasonally. Ms. Fournier was able to take pictures of the sign  
37 currently stored at Torrent Station and wrote down measurements. She gave the  
38 information to Mr. Marshall. Ms. Fournier reported a cap was missing on one of the  
39 signs. Mr. Porter said caps are available at building supply outlets. Mr. Porter asked the  
40 Commission for permission to touch-up the signs with primer as soon as possible. This  
41 will allow the primer to soak into the wood and dry thoroughly before being painted. Mr.  
42 Marshall made a motion to allow, seconded by Ms. Larochele.

- 43
- 44 • **Motion:** Mr. Porter to touch up the signs with primer. All were in favor. Approved.

45 **Community Garden:**

- 46 • Chair Keegan said applications are available for the Garden. Chair Keegan said  
47 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) training will be set up. Mr. Porter questioned if  
48 something would be going in the News Vine for applications. Chair Keegan said it  
49 should be, as well as the town website, library, Barn Store and bank. Mr. Porter  
50 recommended Fox's hardware. Mrs. Easler recommended the hair dresser in town.
- 51 • Chair Keegan said Jim Bode was an active volunteer who passed away last year, his  
52 daughter came to see the memorial bench.
- 53 • Chair Keegan said there is a pool of money for people that cannot afford a plot or need a  
54 little money for supplies. Chair Keegan said plots are available for residents, people who  
55 work in town as well as residents of surrounding communities, if plots are available.
- 56 • Mr. Porter questioned what the plan was for rototilling. Mr. Marshall said Roger Sanborn  
57 has done it in the past. Chair Keegan said he will talk with Jeff Abbe as he organizes  
58 those activities.

59 **Tax Assessor Education:**

- 60 • Chair Keegan said the Commission would like to set up an educational workshop at the  
61 Municipal Conference. Mrs. Easler said that is in the fall and she can contact organizers  
62 to get information for the Commission.

63 **Harvest New England Conference:**

- 64 • Mr. Marshall attended the Conference in Massachusetts. One topic was about starting an  
65 Agricultural Commission. Mr. Marshall said he was surprised how many towns in  
66 Massachusetts and Connecticut are opposed to establishing Agricultural Commissions in  
67 contrast to the generalized support in New Hampshire. Mr. Marshall noted this  
68 Commission is lucky to have a supportive town government.

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70 **Traffic Circle:**

- 71 • Ms. Fournier said the traffic circle grows mostly weeds and is curious if it is state owned  
72 and if they could improve the 'look'. Mr. Colby reported a similar case in another town  
73 that had New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) owned property where  
74 there was a liability issue. Mr. Marshall recalled that last year there was talk in town  
75 about the round-about. Mrs. Easler responded that last year volunteers started discussing  
76 beautification and the NHDOT mowed the vegetation. Mr. Bevans pulled-up the year old  
77 newspaper article regarding this issue. It cited a possible safety issue. Mr. Marshall  
78 noted that at the lights near Highway View Farm there are nice flowers that have been  
79 maintained locally, perhaps because it is a safer area, without interference from NHDOT.  
80 Chair Keegan said the Commission could bring this matter to the Selectmen to inform  
81 them of our interest in improving the appearance of the round-about and to check if there  
82 are other town initiatives related to the round-about with NHDOT. Mrs. Easler said she  
83 will put Chair Keegan on the selectmen's next agenda. Ms. Fournier then asked about  
84 the 'adopt a spot program'. Chair Keegan said, he understands that, it involves the  
85 NHDOT and volunteering to pick-up trash along a designated section of state highway.

86 **Brochure:**

- 87 • Mr. Marshall said he received an email regarding New Hampshire Department of  
88 Agriculture, Markets & Food brochure titled 'Experience Rural New Hampshire  
89 Brochure Event/Activity Registration'. Mr. Marshall said things like Old Home Day or  
90 other agriculture related events scheduled 2019(May to December) and 2020(January to  
91 April) can be included. He wanted to share it with the Commission and other town  
92 boards and commissions. Chair Keegan said the Community Garden might qualify and,  
93 possibly, the Conservation Commission. Mr. Marshall said the deadline is tomorrow but  
94 will reach out to see if this is a hard deadline. Chair Keegan said he will reach out to the  
95 Conservation Commission.

96 **NOFA:**

- 97 • Mrs. Easler questioned if Commissioners would like information regarding various  
98 conferences circulated. Mrs. Easler said this August is the New England Woman's  
99 Herbal Conference. Ms. Fournier brought up the discussion of hemp. Mr. Marshall said  
100 now States can permit cultivation it but NH has yet to pass necessary enabling  
101 legislation. Mr. Marshall noted that it is legal in surrounding states and, by not allowing it  
102 in NH, it will only hurt farmers.

103 **Motion to adjourn:**

- 104 • Made by Mr. Colby and seconded by Mrs. Larochelle. All in favor, none opposed.

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106 The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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108 Minutes respectively submitted by Danielle Bosco

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